

May 9, 2003

Honorable Don Nickles
Chairman
Committee on the Budget
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

As requested by your staff, CBO has prepared an estimate of the costs of implementing S. 162, the Gila River Indian Community Judgment Fund Distribution Act of 2003, as cleared by the Congress on April 29, 2003.

S. 162 would waive the repayment of expert assistance loans made to the Gila River Indian Community. Currently, the tribe owes the Department of the Interior about \$700,000 in principal and interest on loans provided to pay the expenses of expert witnesses in the tribe's claims against the federal government. CBO estimates that enacting this provision would increase direct spending by about \$700,000 in 2003 when the government would otherwise receive this repayment.

[illegible]

Honorable Don Nickles
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CBO's cost estimate for the Senate-reported bill, transmitted on February 26, 2003, describes the basis for this estimate. If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is Julie Middleton.

Sincerely,

Douglas Holtz-Eakin
Director

Enclosure

cc: Honorable Kent Conrad
Ranking Member

Honorable Ben Nighthorse Campbell
Chairman
Senate Committee on Indian Affairs

Honorable Daniel K. Inouye
Vice Chairman

Identical letter sent to Honorable Jim Nussle.

May 9, 2003

Honorable Jim Nussle
Chairman
Committee on the Budget
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

As requested by your staff, CBO has prepared an estimate of the costs of implementing S. 162, the Gila River Indian Community Judgment Fund Distribution Act of 2003, as cleared by the Congress on April 29, 2003.

S. 162 would waive the repayment of expert assistance loans made to the Gila River Indian Community. Currently, the tribe owes the Department of the Interior about \$700,000 in principal and interest on loans provided to pay the expenses of expert witnesses in the tribe's claims against the federal government. CBO estimates that enacting this provision would increase direct spending by about \$700,000 in 2003 when the government would otherwise receive this repayment.

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Honorable Jim Nussle
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Sincerely,

Douglas Holtz-Eakin
Director

Enclosure

cc: Honorable John M. Spratt Jr.
Ranking Member

Honorable Richard Pombo
Chairman
House Committee on Resources

Honorable Nick J. Rahall II
Ranking Democrat

Identical letter sent to Honorable Don Nickles.